FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT GUEILER VOWS NOT TO YIELD TO PRESSURE

PY290201 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2103 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 28 Dec (LATIN)--Bolivian interim President Lidia Gueiler Tejada stated today that she will not tolerate pressure or impositions concerning her government's political course or the appointment of her aides.

An hour earlier, the National Federation of Bank Workers had told the press that the Confederation of Private Enterprises has been exerting pressure on President Gueiler to remove Labor Minister Oscar Garcia in view of his proworker policies.

In a brief statement to journalists accredited to Government Palace, President Gueiler conceded that "the replacement of one minister is being supported by some vested interests," but she did not specify the identity of the minister.

She warned, however, that "I do not want and I will not accept impositions from any sector. No one will tell me how to set my government's political course or how to appoint my ministers. This is my prerogative as president."

She deplored the outbreak of strikes in some labor sectors, which she regarded as being based on "misunderstanding" of the government's economic policy, and urged the workers to maintain a climate of "permanent dialog" to solve their conflicts "for the sake of democracy, which must be safeguarded by the people themselves."

She added: "I do not have any evidence of a military coup, and even if I had I would not announce it publicly; much less would I resort to violence. It is the people themselves who must look after the democratic process."

GUEILER SAYS GOVERNMENT IMPARTIAL TOWARD ELECTION

PY282125 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2049 GMT 27 Dec 79 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 27 Dec (LATIN)--In the Government Palace today Bolivian interim President Lidia Gueiler met with foreign press correspondents accredited to Bolivia for a year-end greeting in which she expressed her full respect for the freedom of the press and speech in the country. Mrs Gueiler ruled out any possibility of extending her constitutional mandate and stressed that she will hand over the government to a chief of state chosen in "absolutely clean" elections.

Mrs Gueiler reiterated her opinion today that the upcoming elections could become general elections, taking into account the proposals submitted in this regard by important national sectors, but she reiterated that she will obey Congress' ruling on this matter.

She stressed that her government is completely impartial and independent regarding the upcoming election campaign, in spite of criticism from the opposition, which charges her with alleged political favoritism toward the center alliance of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), which has majority representation in the present cabinet.

Mrs Gueiler pointed out that "no one intervenes in or controls this government," and that she, as chief of state, is working "with absolute independence" and with the acknowledgement that she is presiding over a government "which belongs to all Bolivians." She stated that the fact that the "MNR" alliance has a majority in her cabinet "is due to the rejection by other political sectors of my proposal to form a government of unity and democratic consolidation and their decision not to assume any responsibility." She added: "I can assure you that future elections will be absolutely clean and impartial." Mrs Gueiler and two of her ministers fully explained the scope of the recent economic measures adopted by the government to face the grave crisis which has been dragging down the country since 1977.

She said: "We could have adopted simple economic measures to fill gaps or extend the crisis until 1980, but we believed that it was our duty to face the situation with responsibility, even at the risk of the social consequences so dreaded by previous governments."

Mrs Gueiler pointed out that her government continues to study some complementary economic and political measures that will benefit vast sectors of the population which are deprived and oppressed and help the consolidation of democracy in its revolutionary concepts.

PRESIDENT GUEILER FAVORS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY282045 La Paz Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0233 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpt] President Lidia Gueiler Tejada has indicated that she favors diplomatic relations with Chile as long as they are aimed at "finding an effective solution to the Bolivian landlocked situation." In this regard, the General Secretariat of Information released a document emphasizing that the president favors dialog and the eventual renewal of relations with Chile as long as this step is in the direction of an effective solution to the Bolivian landlocked situation.

JOURNALISTS CHOOSE KHOMEYNI MAN OF YEAR

PY270207 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 27 Dec (AFP)--Ayatollah Khomeyni was today chosen the man [personaje] of the year in a radio survey of Bolivian journalists. Radio Fides polled 165 journalists in the following principal Bolivian cities: La Paz, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Cochabamba, Sucre, Oruro and Potosi. Khomeyni obtained 62 percent of the votes.

Pope John Paul II placed second in the survey, with 19 percent of the votes.

Khomeyni was chosen "for being the leader of the dedicated Iranian national struggle against U.S. imperialism."

On the domestic front, President Gueiler obtained 33 percent of the votes, former President Walter Guevara Arze 27.27 percent and Juan Lechin Oquendo, secretary general of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB), 19.39 percent.

Radio Fides conducted the survey among radio, television, newspaper, magazine and international news agency journalists.

TURBAY SPEECH WILL FOCUS ON NICARAGUA'S ISLAND CLAIMS

PA280423 Paris AFP in Spanish 0243 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 27 Dec (AFP)--The Colombian Government has discarded every possibility of engaging in an armed conflict with Nicaragua over the sovereignty of San Andres y Providencia islands and three cays in the Caribbean, it was learned here tonight. President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala will officially announce this on Sunday evening when he will deliver a New Year's message to Colombians stressing the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Important excerpts from Turbay Ayala's message, which was recorded today for television, were disclosed here tonight by the Caracol Radio network. According to the radio station's version--which has not been denied by the presidency--Turbay Ayala will affirm that his government has not even thought about a possible armed clash with Nicaragua because the two countries are united by friendship and understanding.

Nicaragua has claimed sovereignty over San Andres y Providencia islands and Roncador, Serranilla and Quitasueno cays, which were turned over to Colombia in 1928.

In Colombia, both Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas and a number of expert internationalists have described Nicaragua's claim as a joke and have said there is no chance Nicaragua might succeed because treaties have been signed.

Nicaragua has reportedly asked the International Court at The Hague to intervene in order to resolve this dispute. This is Colombia's second maritime dispute; for the past 12 years it has been negotiating another one with Venezuela.

Turbay Ayala has so far remained silent regarding his stand on Nicaragua's claim, but according to his New Year's message, he trusts everything will be resolved through a friendly dialog. In his message, Turbay Ayala will say he is sure the cordiality that has always existed between Colombia and Nicaragua will be maintained, particularly when our country expressed its solidarity with the neighboring nation during the Sandinist uprising that defeated Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship, he will affirm.

According to the report, the Colombian president will affirm the situation is neither tense nor alarming and can be resolved through dialog. He will also note that Colombia will flatly reject any solution other than dialog that might be sought for the new conflict. I am sure the new Nicaraguan Government will also reject any other type of solution, the Colombian president will conclude.

TURBAY GOVERNMENT ORDERS ENTRY INTO GATT

PA221703 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 22 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Dec (AFP)--It was officially announced today that the government of Julio Cesar Turbay has ordered Colombia's entrance into GATT. Edgar Moncayo Jimenez, director of the Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX], announced Colombia's adherence to GATT, through which more than 80 percent of world trade is channeled. Moncayo Jimenez said that this step means Colombia's coming of age in international economics. He added that the Colombian Government will now notify the GATT General Secretariat in Geneva about its decision and then a plenipotentiary will sign the international agreement.

Colombia, which had been provisionally admitted to the GATT, had until the end of December to announce its final decision. Moncayo Jimenez indicated that Colombia will benefit from the stability of concessions granted in the past by the countries affiliated with GATT as well as the new concessions. He explained that the commitments are related to the consolidation of common external tariffs for 36 products. He stressed that Colombia's tariff reductions are compatible with the levels decided by the Andean Group, which is also made up of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venenzuela.

FARC GUERRILLAS KILLED IN CLASH WITH ARMY TROOPS

PA262346 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] The guerrilla commando group of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARO] fourth front, which was practically annihilated this morning by army troops on the border between Caldas and Tolima [departments] was responsible for kidnaping 20 wealthy ranchowners for several of whom large ransoms had been paid.

The same guerrilla column, nine of whose members fell in combat with the army this morning, had killed Caldas Department former Governor German Mejia Duque, his brother Hernando and ranchers Luis Eduardo Gonzalez and Gabriel Gomez Arrubla.

Regarding this morning's operations, the Ministry of Defense released the following communique:

The Ministry of National Defense reports that early this morning troops of the army 8th Brigade, during operations to control public order in the border area between Caldas and Tolima departments, clashed with members of the so-called 4th front of the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the armed branch of the Colombian Communist Party, with the following result:

Dead antisocials: Mario Gomez, alias Gilberto, leader of the group of bandits with a long record of crime in different regions of the nation, especially in [word indistinct]; N. N. Alias Gilberto; and seven other as yet unidentified guerrillas, including two women.

The following material was seized during the operation: Five carbines of various calibers, one (Marchin) submachinegun, six handgrenades, three walkie-talkie radios, one piece of dental equipment.

Mario Gomez, alias Gilberto, was known for his criminal activity. His specialty was kidnaping and murder. Among the various crimes for which he was charged were the kidnaping of the following citizens: Pedro Pablo Restrepo Jaramillo, (Ventura Roa), Octavio Chavarria Hernandez, Pablo Londono Jaramillo, Reinaldo Ruiz, Virgilio Molina Aquilar, Eladio Jaramillo Jaramillo, Mario Ocha Beliz, Federico Roman Sanchez, Carlos Escobar Munoz, Hermogenes Valderrama Valderrama, Hugo Lopez Rubio, Alvaro Duque, Jose Andres Ocampo Ramirez, Gabriel Salazar Restrepo and Gabriel Echeverri Gonzalez.

Likewise, this criminal was charged with the murder of Caldas Governor Hernan Mejia Duque, his brother Hernando Mejia Duque, Luis Eduardo Gonzalez and Gabriel Gomez Arrubla. The last two were murdered after being kidnaped along with (Marcel Uribe Urdaneta), on 16 May 1979. [end communique]

Army operations to eradicate the guerrilla group continue on the border between Caldas and Tolima.

COLOMBIAN TROOPS CROSS BORDER, RAISE FLAG

PA301848 Paris AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 30 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 30 Dec (AFP)--Colombian troops penetrated into Venezuelan territory and raised the Colombian flag, the newspaper EL NACIONAL reported here today. The report says the Colombian soldiers penetrated 3 km into Venezuelan territory along the border zone of Dr Jesus Maria Semprun Municipality, Socuavo sector. This led to the mobilization of a Venezuelan batalion and National Guard company.

According to EL MACIONAL the information was supplied by residents of the border town of Casigua El Cubo. They also saw Venezuelan troops moving toward the Colombian border. The newspaper adds that members of the Colombian Army recently crossed into the same Socuavo sector by boat along the Socuavo River and arrested six Venezuelan peasants. According to these troops, the peasants had crossed into Colombian territory.

Finally, the newspaper adds that further incursions into Venezuelan territory took place, and another seven Venezuelan peasants were arrested. Now, Colombian troops have apparently raised the Colombian flag there.

GOVERNMENT RECALLS AMBASSADOR IN CUBA FOR CONSULTATION

PA291343 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2146 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Dec (LATIN)--The Venezuelan Government recalled its ambassador in Havana following a number of incidents involving attempts by Cubans to gain asylum in the embassy, Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano announced here today.

The latest incident took place on 13 December when seven Cubans riding a truck crashed into the residence of Ambassador Cesar Rondon Lovera. Cuban security agents fired at the men, killing one.

"Between 12 May and 13 December this year, there have been four incidents involving attempts to obtain the protection of the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana. Twenty-one Cuban citizens have been involved," said Foreign Minister Zambrano. "This excludes the period between 15 November 1977 and the date in which the present constitutional term began (12 March 1979), during which there were other similar incidents," he added.

The Venezuelan protests were answered by the Cuban Foreign Ministry and "this answer contains elements requiring a detailed analysis and consultations with the Venezuelan ambassador toa Cuba," Zambrano pointed out.

In defending the right to asylum as a Venezuelan tradition, the foreign minister said, "In order to make it possible to exercise this responsibility normally, access to the embassy must be normal and free, not obstructed by obvious and exaggerated security measures." He added that "in the specific case of our embassy in Havana, the number, arms and behavior of the security personnel assigned to protect the embassy are out of proportion when compared with other diplomatic missions in Havana and, naturally, with the Cuban Embassy in Caracas."

The minister said if the security rules force the applicants for asylum to violate the security measures established by the Cuban Government, "it places the ambassador in a position that makes it difficult for him to persuade them, should it be necessary, to abandon the mission."

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES

PA282340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0133 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[By Marcel Roo Gonzalez]

[Text] Caracas, 27 Dec (EFE)--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins announced today, Thursday, that Venezuela will increase its price of crude to over $26 per barrel. The president spoke to EFE and said that Venezuela established a petroleum price increase "over what OPEC would have decided." He also said that Venezuela will give special treatment to Caribbean and Central American countries to obtain supplies, but always within the terms of OPEC agreements.

The president refused to give exact figures on the price increases and said that he did not want to interfere in the ministers' task of giving this information. However, he said that the official increase will be announced before the year's end as he had previously said in a speech in Merida, in the western part of the country. He also referred to aspects of his government's international policies for the coming year and emphasized that it would be very active. He said he would travel extensively to Europe, OPEC and Latin American countries.

He said that Venezuela will attend the Baghdad conference in October on the occasion of OPEC's 20th anniversary. He will also be present in Santa Marta, Colombia, in December during the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of liberator Simon Bolivar's death. He also said that Venezuela will have to analyze and evaluate its achievements during its 20-year membership in the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA]. He also revealed that this year a general technological agreement will be signed with the United States and that talks in this respect have been held with Frank Press, President Carter's scientific adviser. After saying that the talks were well advanced, Herrera Campins said that he believes that this is the first time that a general agreement has been reached on this technological matter.

Meanwhile, Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti, when questioned by EFE on possible petroleum price increases, admitted that it was true that increases were higher than those recommended by OPEC. Calderon Berti refused to give figures and promised to make an official announcement on price increases tomorrow, Friday.

PRESIDENT PLANS TO ATTEND 1980 LAFTA MEETING

PA282342 Paris AFP in Spanish 0108 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Dec (AFP)--It was revealed here today that Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will visit Montevideo, Uruguay, in June 1980 to attend a Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA] chiefs of state meeting.

The Venezuelan president also intends to visit Baghdad, Iraq, next year to attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the OPEC organization, official sources said.

President Herrera Campins will visit Santa Maria Island, Colombia, to attend the ceremonies marking the death of liberator Simon Bolivar.

PETROVEN REPORTS INCREASE IN OIL RESERVES FOR 1979

PA291532 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1515 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Dec (LATIN)--Venezuela's confirmed oil reserves have increased by 3 billion barrels at the end of 1979 and now total 21.12 billion barrels, according to an announcement released by Gen Rafael Alfonso Ravard, president of the Venezuelan Petroleum Company [PETROVEN].

In the company's annual report, the official noted that the average production for this year has been 2,356,000 barrels daily, while the daily average since the nationalization of the industry in 1976 has been 2,264,000 barrels. The company's operating expenses amounted to 11.97 million bolivares ($2.783 million). This represents an increase of 21 percent over the 1979 budget.

Within the budget, the research in production, refining and exploration will amount to 8.5 billion bolivares by the end of the year. "The international oil market will continue to expect a medium-and long-term shortage resulting from supply and demand limitations," Alfonso said. "For various reasons, the many tensions affecting today's world create unpredictable interferences in oil production and marketing," he added. The official pointed out that "Within this situation, Venezuela, because of its geographic position, institutional stability and commercial position, appears as a certain and responsible supplier for our markets while maintaining its participation in the international oil system."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS NATIONALIZATION OF NESTLE INDULAC SHARES

PA292239 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Dec (LATIN)--It has been officially announced that the government today ordered that the shares that Nestle owns in the enterprise "Industrias Lacteas de Venezuela" [INDULAC] be transferred to the state. Nestle owned 40 percent of the total shares. Development Minister Manuel Quijada announced the "Venezuelization" of INDULAC after signing the resolution transferring the 412,200 Nestle-owned shares to the state, which now owns all the shares. Quijada said that this resolution implements Presidential Decree 1336 of 16 December 1975 "which establishes that the milk dehydration process is to be done exclusively by national enterprises."

RADIO NACIONAL TO CLOSE DUE TO LACK OF MONEY

PA291728 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1456 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 28 Dec (EFE)--The government-owned Radio Nacional de Venezuela will stop operating on 1 January due to lack of money. Raul Torrealba Alvarez, director of the radio station, made the announcement. He stressed that since the budget was reduced, there will be no money to pay the workers. He confirmed the information and Tourism Minister Jose Luis Zapata's decision to close the station. He described it as an unprecedented measure. After stressing that the station now has national coverage and that there were plans to extend it to other regions, Torrealba Alvarez noted that the congressional decision to eliminate its budget is a paradox. The station director added that the closing of the station is a blow to the country's culture and escapes all logic.

ROYO DISCUSSES IRAN'S REQUEST FOR SHAH'S EXTRADITION

PA281945 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1809 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[News conference held by Panamanian President Aristides Royo at the presidential palace--live]

[Text] [Question] Could you give some information to the local and foreign press regarding reports indicating that the Iranian Government is formalizing the extradition request for Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

[Answer] Yes, or course, with pleasure. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry received a note signed by Mr Qotbazdeh, who is the prime minister [as received] and foreign minister of Iran. In that note, he says Iran will submit an extradition request for the former shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, which it will present in due time. In that request, prior to the formal extradition request, he makes certain statements about the government of the former shah of Iran and lists the reasons why Iran wants to formalize the extradition request.

The [Panamanian] foreign minister will reply today, but I will also send a note to the Islamic Revolutionary Council today. In this note, I will tell them the following: We have not yet received the extradition request for the former shah of Iran. Once we receive this request, Panama will proceed to study and consider the request in question according to its main law on extradition--Law 44 of 1930. The 1934 extradition agreement does not apply in this case, except as a supplementary document. This agreement is also a law of the republic because it is an inter-American agreement. In addition, this agreement was not signed by Iran. Consequently, we will apply Law 34 of the republic which was passed in 1930. This law lists several prerequisites that must be met by Iran to formalize the extradition requests. These prerequisites include the presentation of a copy of the arrest warrant against the shah, or a copy of the verdict saying the shah is guilty. And we know the copy of the guilty verdict does not exist. Iran must also present a description confirming the identity [of the shah] and a copy of the legal dispositions which apply. All this would have to be submitted through diplomatic channels. According to this law, the executive branch decides if the person wanted will be extradited. The first important thing in the note we are sending to the Islamic Revolutionary Council is that Panama was not pressured by the United States to give asylum to the shah. It was a voluntary, spontaneous action of the Republic of Panama. Panama felt this action would help solve a case of great international tension and serious conflict between two countries--Iran and the United States. We told them we were helping to solve this problem in this way. We did this in our position as a nonalined, sovereign and independent country. We also did this as a country which received great international support for all its struggles, particularly in the struggle for the canal. We felt we were fighting for detente and world peace. It is important to indicate in this note that Panama is a country which complies with, respects and abides by international law. In this respect, we will study the regulations applying to extradition and the request [Iran is making].

We will strictly abide by all the procedures indicated for the extradition according to Panamanian laws and international regulations which rule extradition matters. However, just as we are a country which complies with and abides by international law, and this is even stated in our political constitution, we believe this compliance with international law is not helped by this violation of international regulations. This violation includes the deprivation of liberty and the internment of persons who should enjoy diplomatic immunity. This is the case of the American diplomats being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The embassy is a site international law has long considered a classic, typical, and characteristic place for the right to asylum and immunity. Consequently, the main thing in the note is to tell the Iranian Government that we are willing to consider all legal procedures concerning the shah's extradition, but the Islamic Revolutionary Council should comply with international law and release the hostages.

The Hague International Court has even ruled against Iran. In addition, international regulations have been violated by Iran's action. Consequently, we expect reciprocity in complying with international regulations if we are to attend to, consider and process an extradition demand the Iranian Government has told us will be formalized before the Panamanian Government.

[Question] In this Iranian request for the extradition of the shah, is the Iranian Government requesting the arrest of the shah?

[Answer] No, because the request is a note in which they say they will officially submit the extradition request. A country must definitely locate the person who has been requested and take pertinent measures.

However, this extradition request has not been submitted. According to the law, this must be done withing a 60-day period. Several documents, which they [presumably the Revolutionary Council] are aware they have not submitted, must be attached to the extradition request. However, they have warned that they will attach them in the immediate future.

[Question by Tomas Cupas] Mr President, a Day of the Innocents [Panamanian April Fool's Day] joke was published in CRITICIA newspaper today regarding an offer by the shah. I was told yesterday that the shah had allegedly made an offer to buy Contadora Island for $25 million, but this offer had been rejected. Is this true?

[Answer] We do not know anthing about this. Maybe it was a prelude to the [Panamanian] April Fool's Day, but we do not know about any offer by the shah to buy Contadora. In addition, what we have in Contadora is worth a lot more than $25 million. But there has been no offer.

[Cupas] Mr President, it has been said the shah's children are already in Panama, on Contadora.

[Answer] Yes, the shah's family has come to Panama.

[Cupas] But are his children here?

[Answer] Yes.

[Cupas] They have been seen on Contadora.

[Answer] If they were seen on Contadora, that means they are on Contadora.

[Cupas] The children, right?

[Answer] [Laughter in background] I do not know how many children he has.

[Unidentified woman] Does the national government have any other plans regarding the shah, such as moving him to a place other than Contadora?

[Answer] On another occasion, when I gave my first statement to the press [on this matter], we said the shah, as a political exile in Panama, had complete freedom to move around. For this reason, Migdalia, with your permission, it is not for us to move him. If he wants to move, he can move wherever he desires, but we will not move him.

[Question] Mr President, do you know of any government official or anyone from the private sector who has approached the shah to get him interested in any kind of investment in our country?

[Answer] I read in the press that he has had lunch with lawyers and businessmen. But I do not know anything about it.

Any Panamanian who has access to him might make him some business proposals. What I said when he came, and I reiterate this, is that the government has made no proposals or established any conditions concerning investments by the shah in Panama. That is completely up to him. Nobody should think Panama was motivated to bring the former shah of Iran here by economic or investment purposes. We have done this freely and spontaneously in an attempt to solve an international conflict.

[Question] Mr President, what about the expenditures incurred due to the use of national guard ships and units for the shah's protection? Is he paying for all this?

[Answer] The shah will naturally cover the expenses for his stay as is generally the case of any person who comes to our country to live.

[Question by Tomas Cupas] Mr President, has the shah reacted to the offer made by the Chiriqui businessmen, ranchers and merchants to buy land in the mountains?

[Answer] I did not know anything about that offer, Tommy. I really did not know about it, but that depends on him and not on other people. He does have an interest in seeing that part of the country. Let us wait. He will do this in the near future.

PAPER REPUDIATES KHOMEYNI, UPHOLDS CLOSE TIES WITH U.S.

FA292209 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Dec 79 p 6a PA

[Rafael Angel Murgas article: "The Scandal of the Century"]

[Text] The situation created by Khomeyni's arrogance and inability to govern is truly the most daring and unwise political action of the century. Khomeyni has put the people of Iran in a defenseless position in their confrontation with international law. He has condemned the Iranian people to strong war actions.

Never in their history have the American people been so humiliated as they have been now by Khomeyni in his effort to upset world peace. The Iranian mobs that have seized the Government of Iran do not have the slightest sense of responsibility. No country in the world can be associated with a barbaric political action that shames the civilized world. Not even Khomeyni's religious comrades agree with the decision to challenge the human dignity of sovereign people.

The attacks that the fanatic tyrant of Iran delivers daily against President Carter are illogical and completely empty, lacking moral weight. With senseless statements he is trying to justify the outrage committed against the United States and create ill-feeling against one of the most illustrious men of the American Continent: Jimmy Carter.

The situation between the two countries is tense and it will be very difficult to establish an understanding that will eliminate the threat of war. Even if the hostages are released, the matter could not just be mercifully forgotten. The assault against the North Americans has been so strong that the wounded pride of a whole nation demands satisfaction from the irresponsible Iranian dictator and his fanatical angry mob.

We Panamanians are closely linked to the United States by historic ties of culture, progress and spiritual feelings. We are so close to each other that in case of war the two nations would have the same fate. In the event that war is declared, it would not be wise at this historic moment to hoist anti-U.S. banners on our soil. The American people are living through a painful situation as a result of the Iranian challenge and its incalculable consequences. They are our neighbors and partners in the great inter-oceanic channel enterprise. All this moves us to behave as good neighbors in the face of the uncertain future of all the people of the world.

The shah of Iran is under the shield of isthamian hospitality as a sign of the cooperative spirit of the progressive government of Dr Aristides Royo, who wants to create a propitious climate for world peace.

There is no political explanation for the protests against the shah of Iran. It appears that this is an effort to revive the differences between Panama and the United States that were resolved with the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

When the Sandinists were given asylum there was no protest. Does this mean that today's protests are against the North Americans and not against the shah?

A display of prudence shows respect and consideration for neighbors. We would have to face bigger problems if our policy were demagogically geared toward dividing the Panamanian community into antagonistic classes to irresponsibly repeat the painful drama of many sister nations in the American Continent. We must not make the art of politics into a demagogic feast against the moral creed of truth and justice.

SOUTH AFRICA REQUESTS HELP IN DUNN KIDNAPING CASE

PA291354 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2332 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The South African Government today asked the Panamanian authorities to intercede to obtain the release of South African Ambassador to El Salvador Archibald Gardner Dunn. He is being held by a leftist group.

The South African diplomat was kidnaped 1 month ago in San Salvador by the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces.[FPL].

South Africa's request was made through Panamanian Ambassador to the United States Carlos Lorez Guevara.

CUBAN DESERTS SHIP IN CANAL, SEEKS ASYLUM

PA292013 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1745 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Cuban citizen Venerando Ramos Osorio yesterday deserted a Cuban-registered ship in the Panama Canal. Osorio went to the Venezuelan Embassy where he was refused political asylum. He was then taken to the immigration office where he was told he had to remain under custody while arrangements are made. He was taken to the model jail where he will stay until Wednesday when the immigration office reopens. A National Guard source confirmed that the Cuban citizen is in section 3, cell No 4 of the model jail.

COSTA RICA

BUSINESS SECTOR REPORTEDLY WANTS GOVERNMENT OVERTHROWN

PA282316 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1702 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Luis Alberto Monge, former Social Democratic presidential candidate, has allegedly said that Costa Rican businessmen have informed him of their opinion that this administration must be prevented from concluding its present term of office which expires on May 1982.

In statements published today, Friday, by San Jose's LA REPUBLICA, Monge is supposed to have said that "businessmen and capitalists have told him that this administration must be overthrown as soon as possible."

According to LA REPUBLICA, Monge Alvarez, who was defeated by President Rodrigo Carazo Odio during the 1978 elections, maintained that "capitalist businessmen who had contributed financially to Rodrigo Carazo Odio's presidential campaign, approached me to tell me that this regime must be overthrown before it concludes its term."

Monge claims to have replied to the alleged plotters that the administration must see its mandate through "and that we must wait until 1 February 1982 to settle the situation at the polls."

The newspaper finally said that Monge Alvarez had said that Costa Rican business "is very discontented and alarmed because it has not seen either the policies or measures needed to soften the effect of the economic crisis and give a breather to the country's productive forces."

Monge expects to lead the National Liberation Party during the 1982 general elections. He is now contesting the nomination with Carlos Manuel Castillo Morales, former vice president and incumbent deputy.

BANANA WORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES INTO 10TH DAY

PA301811 Paris AFP in Spanish 1717 GMT 30 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 30 Dec (AFP)--The U.S. Standard Fruit Company has lost more than $1 million as a result of a workers strike which has paralyzed banana plantations on the Atlantic coast for the last 10 days, company officials reported today here.

The strike, in which some 7,000 workers are involved, began on 21 December when two unions in that sector called a strike to protest the company's failure to fulfill the labor agreement signed 2 months ago.

The Labor Ministry ruled in favor of the workers last Friday, although a court had declared the strike illegal. The Labor Ministry has asked the Standard Fruit Company to accept its decision. However, the company has not accepted this decision and expressed its regrets for not being able to abide by it.

The workers have termed the company's attitude as disrespectful to the Costa Rican Government, and they have reiterated that the strike will continue indefinitely.

EL SALVADOR

CABINET THREATENS TO RESIGN, LISTS DEMANDS

PA310346 Paris AFP in Spanish 0258 GMT 31 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (AFP)--A serious political crisis exploded here tonight when almost all of the cabinet threatened to resign if the young officers (the moderate faction of the army which carried out the coup d'etat against President Humberto Romero in October) do not define their political position.

In a lengthy communique published Sunday night the cabinet demanded that the revolutionary government junta effectively guarantee the general command of the armed forces. According to observers, the defense minister and some army commanders are in practice exercising military power, circumventing the junta. This is contrary to the promises made in the proclamation the army issued after the coup d'etat.

The cabinet, whose threat is also supported by two civilian members of the government junta, is also against the Salvadoran political process' recent turn to the right. The cabinet and many high-ranking officials who signed the communique also accused the political-military oligarchy of strengthening itself and hindering the changes in the country.

It is precisely that right wing which led El Salvador to a crisis under the Romero regime and which is responsible for the armed forces continuing to stain themselves with the people's blood, the communique stated.

Despite the sacrifices of the young officers and the current government, the specter of a civil war which could destroy all of us continues to threaten El Salvador, the document added.

The communique demanded there be an urgent dialog among the permanent council of the armed forces, the government and the popular organizations (the extreme left) to discuss the promised democratization. It also demanded that the armed forces stop intervening in labor conflicts. More than 50 people were killed in this type of intervention in the week from 17 to 23 December.

Since the Armed Forces Council at 2000 (0200 GMT) replied that it could not meet immediately, the cabinet has given it until 2 January to state its position on the demands or it will issue its mass resignation.

THREE KILLED IN COMMANDO ATTACK ON U.S. BANK

PA282028 Paris AFP in Spanish 1921 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Dec (AFP)--Police sources have reported that a bomb attack early this morning on the offices of the First National City Bank here left three dead.

The report said one victim was a night watchman who tried to resist the attack. Another victim was a commando group member who was killed by the explosion. The third victim was a bystander.

The attack was launched by a commando group of the Marxist Peoples Liberation Forces, the source added.

GUARDSMEN, SUBVERSIVES CLASH IN SAN SALVADOR

PA281815 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1736 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--An unidentified individual was killed last night during a shootout between national guardsmen and subversive elements at the Boulevard of Heroes here.

The dead man was found with a submachinegun.

The incident occurred as a bomb exploded at the First National City Bank building in San Salvador.

Armed forces sources said the subversives were fleeing when a national guard convoy appeared by coincidence. A clash ensued.

At the same time, about 500 meters away, security corps members were evicting members of the Union of Slum Area Dwellers [Union de Pobladores de Tugurio--UPI] from a lot they had occupied since yesterday afternoon.

It is believed the three incidents were unrelated and simply happened in the same area at the same time.

Another bomb went off at its Central American offices and a third one exploded at a building on the southern freeway in San Salvador. It is still not known who launched the attacks.

Army sources reported negotiations were underway to free two coffee plantations taken over by workers and Peoples Revolutionary Bloc members.

The occupied plantations are: Agua Caliente, 4 km east of downtown San Salvador, and San Antonio in Zacatecoluca, 56 km east of the capital. The workers are demanding social and economic benefits in both cases.

NO OFFICIAL REACTION TO U.S. EMBASSY REDUCTION

PA281659 Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Dec (AFP)--There has been no official reaction here today to the U.S. Government's announced reduction in its diplomatic and other personnel working in El Salvador following the wave of violence this country is experiencing.

Government spokesmen refused to comment on the matter noting that there is still no official report on it. They added that the only news they have was disclosed by the news agencies. However, it was learned from unofficial sources that the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador last week urged U.S. families residing here to protect themselves, and it warned the women and children to prepare for an eventual evacuation.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Foreign Minister Hector Dada left for Mexico today to prepare the way for a government junta visit that will take place during the first week in January.

FATE OF KIDNAPED SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR UNKNOWN

PA292019 Paris AFP in Spanish 2117 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 28 Dec (AFP)--There was complete mystery here today regarding the fate of the kidnaped South African ambassador to El Salvador. His kidnapers had threatened to execute him if the Salvadoran press refused to publish two of their communiques on 26 and 27 December.

In an open letter to the High Command and the prominent members of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), Ambassador Archibald Dunn's family issued a moving plea, begging the FPL not to stain its good reputation by committing an act of cruelty without provocation.

Dunn's family added that it is fully aware of the high patriotic feelings which motivated the distinguished organization, but it believes that a satisfactory solution is possible. The Dunn case has already received great worldwide publicity, and we believe you have already achieved most of your objectives, the letter stated.

NICARAGUAN EXILES ARRIVE IN SAN SALVADOR

PA301710 Paris AFP in Spanish 2213 GMT 29 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Dec (AFP)--A total of 39 Nicaraguans who had taken asylum in the Salvadoran Embassy in Managua arrived today in El Salvador as political refugees.

Twenty are former members of the Somozist National Guard, and the rest are former government officials. Upon their arrival at Ilopango Airport, they indicated that there are still some 44 former Somozists in the Salvadoran Embassy waiting for their respective safe-conducts so they can leave the country.

They said they left their country without anything other than the clothes they were wearing. They added that they are depending on the Red Cross until they can start a new life. They also said Deputy Defense Minister Commander Eden Pastora was at the airport to see them leave. They asked newsmen not to mention their names for security reasons.

LEFTIST GROUPS REPORT ARREST OF LEADERS

PA302027 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1918 GMT 30 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A leader of the leftist 28 February Peoples Leagues and a leader of the Revolutionary Trade Union Federation (Federacion Sindical Revolucionaria) were arrested a few hours ago in different parts of the country, members of those organizations reported.

One of the persons arrested is Melisio Claros, member of the 28 February Peoples Leagues' political commission.

Claros was arrested as he entered the city of San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department, 178 km northeast of here.

The other leftist leader, Sergio Chavez, social security and welfare secretary of the Revolutionary Trade Union Federation, was arrested this morning near the America Theatre. The Revolutionary Trade Union Federation was organized yesterday at the El Salvador University Law School. It is a branch of the Leftist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR).

Chavez is also press and propaganda secretary of the Metal Mechanics Industries Union of El Salvador and works for Conelca, a subsidiary of U.S. Phelps Dodge Company.

Both leftist organizations accused the government of arresting [name indistinct] without giving an explanation for the arrest.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT ASKS POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

PA300438 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Dec 79 p-12 PA

[Text] The Guatemalan Government has asked for a postponement of the Central American foreign ministers' meeting called by Costa Rica for January. It was announced here, today, that Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez has commitments for that date.

According to a Guatemalan Foreign Ministry communique, Guatemala will receive Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo on that date and this will not permit Foreign Minister Valdez to go to San Jose.

However, the communique says that considering that "the matters to be discussed at the meeting "are so important" it will be necessary to prepare the meeting at various levels and establish a date "by common consent" with the regional foreign ministers.

The meeting was called by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon who invited his Central American colleagues and the Panamanian and Dominican foreign ministers to a meeting on 15 and 17 January as a previous step to holding a Central American presidential summit meeting in Managua.

ARRIVAL OF IRANIAN COMMANDO TEAM DENIED

PA281518 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Presidential public relations secretary Carlos Toledo Vielman reported that it is untrue that extreme security measures have been taken at La Aurora International Airport. He then added that this is normal during the Christmas and New Year season because of the great number of tourists. Therefore, the reports made by some agencies stating that vigilance had been increased because word was received an Iranian commando team was to arrive in our country en route to Panama is untrue.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER COMMENTS ON REPRESSION

PA290445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Dec (AFP)--Repression in Guatemala reached unprecedented levels this year, Rene de Leon Schlotter, leader of Guatemalan Christian Democracy, said today at a press conference.

De Leon, secretary general of the World Union of Christian Democratic Parties, was a candidate for vice president of the republic in the 1978 elections.

According to the political leader, the armed left's response to that repression has primarily affected the soldiers and policemen, most of whom belong to the popular sectors. He added that the armed left has also exerted economic pressures on certain oligarchic families by kidnaping their children.

For its part, he went on, the armed right is calling for a holy war against communism and wants to drag the country into a civil war.

As the only alternative capable of preventing this political polarization, De Leon suggested a peaceful democratization process and asked the government to immediately stop the violence created by sectors or groups it can control.

He also asked the business sectors to distribute the revenue generated by the country's economic growth in such a way as to benefit the popular sectors and the middle classes. Regarding this, the politician mentioned a number of economic emergency measures that he feels must be adopted, including the creation of a special fund for national development.

Asked if his party would be willing to participate in President Fernando Romeo Lucas' government next year, as is being rumored, De Leon siad that so far the government has not made any specific proposal in connection with this.

In any event, he went on, that participation would be possible only if violence is brought to an end and the economic measures demanded by his party are implemented.

Finally, he noted that participation in the government could not be made by an individual decision of his party, but would have to be made by all democratic left groups.

NICARAGUA

RUIZ: GOVERNMENT SEEKS REGIONAL PEACE AT C.A. MEETINGS

PA290436 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz said today that the upcoming Central American meetings are for the purpose of preventing foreign attacks against Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan leader, without mentioning them by name, referred to the forthcoming Central American foreign ministers meeting to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the regional chiefs of state meeting to be held in Managua at the end of January.

He added that on those occasions Nicaragua will express its intention to seek guarantees of peace in order to carry out its revolutionary process within a climate of regional peace. We want to prove that we want friendly relations with the other Central American countries and that Nicaraguan political plans do not include exporting the revolution, he said.

Considering the possibility that other nations may have outbreaks of revolution he said: That is up to peoples which want to follow our example to fight dictatorships. On our part we seek guarantees of peace to develop our revolution within a climate of good relations.

LEADERS COMMENT ON COLOMBIAN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

D'Escoto Reiterates Position

PA291634 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1649 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman said here today that Nicaragua will firmly maintain its position on the need for a review of the treaties which gave Colombia possession of the San Andres and Providencia islands.

He added that the same policy will be followed regarding the recovery of the uninhabited Quita Sueno, Roncador and Serrana cays which Nicaraguan authorities maintain "form part of Nicaragua's continental shelf."

"We will firmly maintain our just claim. We want to proceed in this subject as we have proceeded in all areas--in a rational and friendly manner," the minister and Catholic priest stressed.

He noted that Nicaragua has decreed its sovereignty over 200 miles of territorial sea by making use of an international right just as Colombia has done.

"This is the way things stand. But I believe justice will prevail in the end, and Nicaragua will recover its full sovereignty over its complete geographic dimension," he said. D'Escoto Brockman was confirmed yesterday in his post as foreign minister.

He also confirmed that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry is being advised by a special team which includes jurist Luis Pasos Arguellos, an expert on the Colombian-Nicaraguan dispute.

The foreign minister did not disclose when or in what forum Nicaragua will take action to obtain a review of the documents dealing with the Barcenas-Meseses-Guerra treaty by which "subjugated and helpless Nicaragua" was forced to cede the San Andres and Providencia islands in 1928.

Borge Criticizes Colombian 'Display'

PA291647 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 29 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge Martinez said here last night the Colombian Army is conducting a "tacky display" in the Caribbean. The Nicaraguan official used those words to comment on the Colombian-Nicaraguan dispute over cays, islets and islands in the Caribbean. According to the Nicaraguan Government, "They belong to Nicaragua because they are within the 200-mile territorial limit."

Borge Martinez was interviewed by newsmen while he was helping unload a truck containing supplies for a local hospital. This aid was especially meant for sick children.

The commander said perhaps the intention is to create problems between Nicaragua and the Andean Pact countries.

"If it is a trap, we will inevitably fall into it because we have to defend our sovereignty," he said.

However, he explained, Nicaragua will file its claims before international tribunals.

"Justice is on our side and we have faith in international justice," he added.

In answer to a question, Commander Borge Martinez said, "We will be unyielding" in claiming the islands and cays in the Caribbean.

He later noted: "However, even if we had the same military capability as Colombia, we would not make the tacky display the Colombian Army is making."

He said, in response to the show of force by Colombia, "We will respond firmly, but with prudence, as we claim our sovereign rights."

Nicaraguan Government spokesmen have stated that the San Andres and Providencia islands, as well as Roncador, Quita Suenos and Serrana cays, are on Nicaragua's continental shelf. Colombian Government officials have said Nicaragua's claim is considered "naive" and "a joke."

ORTEGA EXPLAINS NEED FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT

PA282113 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1758 GMT 27 Dec 79 PA

[Speech by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate and member of the government junta, at the National Palace in Managua during a meeting to announce the new Nicaraguan cabinet--live]

[Excerpts] The members of the various ministries, the members of the judiciary branch and the various authorities of our government clearly understand that it is necessary to change the administrative structure in order to further the revolution.

As this reorganization is implemented, changes are made and officials are transferred from one post to another depending on their effectiveness or the needs of the revolution. It is necessary to understand what the revolution means. It is logical that all of us do not understand or grasp some of the changes. It is also understandable for all of us not to respond as we should as workers of the people. We must realize that today we are in a post simply at the service of the people. From this post, we might go to another which might appear less important. However, it has as much importance as those posts which apparently have higher ranks.

In this regard, we insist on the need to transform the mentality of the man [words indistinct] within the revolution, the man who serves the revolution in the administrative and state apparatuses. This man should clearly understand and be aware that he is fulfilling a mission for the people. His effort is contained in those people [as heard], and he may be removed at any moment.

We must admit that all the companeros who have held ministerial positions and all the companeros who have held leadership positions within the public administration have worked very honestly and efficiently. To those companeros who today cease to have certain responsibilities and to those whom the revolution offers other possibilities and other places of work, we take advantage of this opportunity today to recognize them.

We also think it is necessary to take advantage of this moment to insist on the necessity to implement an efficient policy of austerity in the Government of National Reconstruction.

It is true the criterion exists, and it is true everyone supports their criterion. But we have difficulties in practice because of our limitations. We must not lose sight of the difficulties our people are experiencing. We cannot lose sight of the limitations of our people and the enormous responsibility we all have as officials of the people. The people contributed and continue to contribute the greatest amount of sacrifice. These people previously confronted the Somoza dictatorship and gave the greatest amount of blood and effort. Today, they continue to give a great amount of blood and effort.

We know we have great limitations, and these limitations are directly affecting the great alienated masses of people, workers and peasants. We owe them our service.

We all know many government employees resist working when their normal workday is over. The tendency exists to take vacations routinely, as though we were in a normal situation. We believe this cannot make anyone happy because we would then be disassociating ourselves from reality. We would be forgetting the poverty in which our people are living, and we would be totally losing sight of our situation and the interests of our revolution.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ATTACK SANDINIST MILITARY POST

PA301635 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2242 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 30 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A group of armed men, presumably former members of the overthrown government of Gen Anastasio Somoza, launched an attack Thursday night against a Sandinist military post in Pueblo Nuevo, Esteli Department.

BARRICADA, the Sandinist National Liberation Front's (FSLN) official newspaper, reported today that the counterrevolutionaries approached the post in a red stationwagon and used Garand, M-16, FAL and Browning rifles. The group left after a 30-minute attack.

The Sandinist police did not return fire in order to avoid wounding the families who live across from the military post, BARRICADA added.

A search was conducted the next morning throughout the city's suburbs. A handgrenade, a Garand rifle clip and FAL shells were found in the area.

Some people in the region said the Rodriguez brothers were among the attackers. They had also participated in the Somozist National Guard massacre of two peasant families in Condega, Esteli Department, during the final offensive of the Sandinist guerrillas against Somoza's regime.

BRIEFS

UN DONATION--In January, the United Nations will give $1.4 million to the Social Welfare Ministry, the NUEVA NICARAGUA NEWS AGENCY has reported. The money will be used to build child development centers and production cooperatives and to send persons injured during the war to foreign capitals. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA]

ARGENTINA

VIOLA SAYS HE WILL NOT REFUSE PRESIDENTIAL POST

PY290302 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1015 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA)--Lt Gen Roberto Viola, outgoing army commander in chief, stated that he will take President Jorge Videla's place when the latter retires in March 1981 if the military junta asks him to do so. In an interview which was broadcast last night over Channel 9, Viola did not give a direct answer when he was asked whether he would be the next president. Nevertheless, he pointed out that he could not say "definitely no." He then stated that if the military junta asks him to be president "he would have no choice but to accept the office, because I believe that no militaryman who took an active part in this process could decline any post, much less that of president of the republic."

GALTIERI SWORN IN AS MILITARY JUNTA MEMBER

PY282317 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2221 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA)--Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, new commander in chief of the army, was sworn in as a member of the military junta in a ceremony held at 1912 today in the Blue Room of the National Congress.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL TO ABSTAIN FROM IMF VOTE ON IRANIAN SANCTIONS

PY282242 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 28 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro has revealed that both the United States and Iran have requested Brazil's support for their positions in the International Monetary Fund. The IMF is currently examining a U.S. request to block financial assistance to the Iranian regime and to apply economic sanctions against the government of Ayatollah Khomeyni. Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said that Brazil will abstain from voting because it does not have enough information to take a position.

GOVERNMENT LIFTS SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA

PY270301 Paris AFP in Spanish 2335 GMT 27 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Dec (AFP)--The Brazilian Foreign Ministry announced here today that Brazil has lifted the economic sanctions decreed by the United Nations against Rhodesia. Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo made the decision in keeping with Resolution No 460, approved by the UN Security Council on 23 December.

SIX MINISTERS REPORTEDLY TO RESIGN EARLY NEXT YEAR

PY291445 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpt] The report that six ministers will have to resign early next year does not affect Communications Minister Waroldo Correa de Mattos.

He said that any minister can go at any time because it is part of the responsibility involved in the job.

ECUADOR

ROLDOS STRESSES POSITIVE WORK OF FIRST 5 MONTHS IN OFFICE

PA291432 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] In a television interview, President Jaime Roldos Aguilera said that aside from negative situations resulting from the country's problems, the work conducted by the current administration during its first months in office leaves a positive balance. The president analyzed his administration during its first 5 months in office. He stressed the areas in which there was greater work as well as the factors which have hindered the prompt implementation of outlined objectives in some cases. He also said the fact that 1980 has been declared a year of production does not in any way mean the social changes promised when he took office have been postponed.

PERU

PRESIDENT REITERATES ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 1980

PA231230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0320 GMT 22 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 Dec (EFE)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez today reiterated that free elections will be held in 1980 and power will be turned over to the legitimately elected government. Morales Bermudez stressed elections will be free, "in accordance with the concept of freedom, the good use of freedom." General elections, the first in 17 years, will be held on 18 May 1980. The emergence in them of the leftist sectors, including the most radical factions, constitutes a new element. The left emerged as the country's third-leading political force during a popular consultation held on 18 June 1978 to elect the 100 deputies who drafted the new constitution. Some 6 million Peruvians will vote on 18 May to elect a president, 2 vice presidents, 60 senators and 180 deputies. This figure includes 750,000 registered illiterates who will vote for the first time. Peruvians who live abroad will also vote for the first time. President Morales Bermudez reiterated these democratization plans at a Christmas gathering for Government Palace personnel.

NEW LAW FAVORS ECONOMIC DECENTRALIZATION

PA292246 Paris AFP in Spanish 0147 GMT 29 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 28 Dec (AFP)--The state press agency announced tonight that the government passed a law today promoting economic decentralization. Private businesses set up in the provinces will be rewarded with tax reductions of up to 90 percent. It likewise decreed that state concerns that implement their activities outside Lima must install their offices in the respective localities. It also ordered that the government's large financial organization, the Financial Development Corporation (COFIDE), must dedicate at least 80 percent of its financial resources to provincial activities. The law likewise includes special facilities for reinvestments in companies operating outside Lima. This decree is added to other similar ones which also grant tax reductions to those who transfer their residence to the provinces.